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STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL COOPERATION

PROGRAMME QUESTIONS: PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES AND PLANNING

Proposed programme of work of the Statistical Division for the biennium 1994-1995 and revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

Report of the Secretary-General

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* E/CN.3/1993/1.

INTRODUCTION

1. At its present session, the Statistical Commission has before it a note by the Secretariat on the proposed programme of work of the Statistical Division for the biennium 1994-1995 and related information (E/CN.3/1993/CRP.1). The Commission also has before it copies of the medium-term plan on the programme of statistics for the period 1992-1997 (A/45/6/Rev.1 (Prog. 24)) and the revisions to the plan (A/47/6 (Prog. 24)). These revisions were adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session (resolution 47/214) with the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-second session.

I. PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE STATISTICAL DIVISION FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995

2. In accordance with the relevant United Nations regulations and rules governing programme planning 1/ the draft programme of work in statistics is submitted for review and comments by the Statistical Commission. The proposed programme of work of the Statistical Division for the biennium 1994-1995 is based on the revised medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 as adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/214 and also presents several options for modifying the proposed programme of work in accordance with decision number 2 of the Commission's Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination (E/CN.3/1993/21).

3. The Statistical Commission may wish to review the proposed programme of work and provide its comments to the Secretary-General. The Commission should be aware that in accordance with regulations 3.1 and rules 103.2, 103.3 and 103.6 of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, although the suggestions or recommendations on the substance of the work programme made by the intergovernmental body concerned may be taken into account in the course of the preparation and review of the programme budget, the Secretary-General cannot commit himself to the adoption of such suggestions or recommendations before the proposed programme budget is completed. Furthermore, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 47/213 the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 1994-1995 has already been established and the Assembly has already taken a decision on the total preliminary estimates for that biennium. The draft programme of work for the biennium 1994-1995 submitted to the Commission has been prepared in this context. The Secretary-General's proposed programme budget will be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session for consideration and approval.

4. The Commission should take note that the Secretary-General has undertaken a restructuring of the Secretariat in order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Organization. Revised estimates are currently being prepared for the 1992-1993 programme budget to reflect the organizational changes that have been proposed in the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session (A/47/753). These revised budget estimates are scheduled to be considered by the General Assembly in March 1993, at its resumed forty-seventh session.

II. REVISIONS TO THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997 FOR THE STATISTICS PROGRAMME

5. The Commission has before it the revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 for the statistics programme (A/47/6 (Prog. 24)), adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session with the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination. In accordance with the mandated cycle of revising the medium-term plan, all action on the revision took place between the twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh sessions of the Commission.

6. The conclusion and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the proposed revisions of the medium-term plan for statistics are as follows (see A/47/16 (Part II)):

> "146. At its 38th meeting, on 14 September 1992, the Committee considered revisions to programme 24 (Statistics) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6 (Prog. 24)).
>
> "Conclusions and recommendations
>
> "147. The Committee recommended approval of the proposed revisions to programme 24 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, with the following modification:
>
> > Paragraph 24.15: After the words 'economies in transition' add the words 'from central planning to market economy'."

7. In accordance with the relevant regulations and rules governing programme planning, 1/ further revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 will be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session, in 1994 to cover the biennium 1996-1997. Under current arrangements, the twenty-eighth session of the Statistical Commission will be held in 1995 only after these revisions are scheduled to be adopted by the General Assembly. Accordingly, the Commission may wish to provide its guidance at the present session on further needed revisions to the medium-term plan in statistics.

III. POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

8. Bearing in mind the information provided in sections I and II above, the Commission may wish to review the proposed programme of work and priorities of the Statistical Division for the biennium 1994-1995 and provide comments to the Secretary-General, taking into account the conclusions of the Committee on Programme and Coordination on the statistics programme of the revisions to the medium-term plan and the options provided in E/CN.3/1993/CRP.1. The Commission may also wish to provide guidance on further revisions to the medium-term plan.

Notes

1/ See ST/SGB/PPBME/Rules/1 (1987); see also the revisions adopted by the General Assembly (resolution 42/215) on the recommendation of the Committee for Programme and Coordination contained in Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/42/16), part two, para. 74, and the text on the contingency fund adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 42/211.